



The Watershed

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THE NEWSLETTER OF FORESTS FOREVER

SUMMER, 2002

Logging threatens largest state-owned forest

Marking a victory in the effort to restore Jackson Demonstration State Forest, a lawsuit has halted logging on the land until a new forest management plan and Environmental Impact Report (EIR) are approved.

Located three hours north of the Golden Gate Bridge, Jackson is situated on the coast between the towns of Mendocino and Fort Bragg.

At 50,000 acres it is the largest of California's eight state-owned forests and the only one home to a significant percentage of mature second-growth redwoods.

Last year Forests Forever decided to make restoring the forest its primary campaign.

"The amount of quality open space available to the public has lagged far behind California's population growth," said Mark Fletcher, president of Forest Forever's board of directors.

"Redwood areas such as Jackson are highly valued for recreation, tourism and wildlife habitat. And those uses add much more to the local economy than timber."

While the temporary halt in

see "Jackson," p. 12, col. 1



A clear-cut in Jackson Demonstration State Forest

photo courtesy of the Campaign to Restore Jackson State Redwood Forest

Initiative would preserve state's oldest trees

A voter initiative that would protect California's oldest trees from logging recently has been introduced.

Known as the Heritage Tree Preservation Act, the initiative would protect trees that existed during or before 1850, the year California became a state.

The initiative is backed by a coalition of environmental and religious groups called the

Citizens' Campaign for Old-Growth Preservation (CFOG) and has garnered a healthy slew of celebrity endorsers, including Bonnie Raitt, Natalie Merchant and James Taylor.

Forests Forever is one of the coalition's members, and has been helping gather signatures for the initiative since Jan. 28, collecting about 1000.

On May 30 state Sen. Don

Perata (D-Oakland) introduced a bill calling for the people of California to have the opportunity to vote on passage of the heritage tree act.

The measure would bring sweeping protection for old-growth trees in the state of California. Existing protection for the state's old-growth is extremely spotty, and leaves the majority of ancient trees vulner-

able to removal.

"Most people don't know that we're still cutting old-growth, and when they find out they don't think it's an acceptable practice," said CFOG Executive Director Susan Moloney.

The support for old-growth protection is wide-ranging,

see "Old-growth," p. 11 col. 2

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from the Executive Director...

Governmental fire-suppression policy: Smokey the Bear was not right after all

Smokey the Bear *should* have said, "Only you can prevent all-out suppression of natural forest fires."

But when the spokesperson is a cartoon character beloved by American kids going back to the Baby Boom, it is tough for us to think such a sage could be wrong.

Anyway, the "Only you..." line above doesn't have much of a ring to it.

It has taken decade after recent decade of intense wildfires for Americans to begin to see the true problem underlying our forest fires. And that problem essentially is:

Forest fires have become more frequent and more intense because of industrial logging practices and government-sponsored fire-suppression programs.

At this writing summer 2002 is said to be the worst fire season in the West in many years. Each summer seems, by all reports, worse than the last.

In forests usually lightning sparks fire—a thunderhead drives a shaft of lightning down the trunk of a fir tree, igniting a bed of dried needles at its base.

But because it is often raining when lightning strikes, the fire lies down, moving slowly and often only a few feet high. Rainfall can help douse the fire. It burns in a mosaic pattern, leaving islands of unburned habitat as refuges for plants and for animals which sometimes graze unconcerned as a fire blazes nearby.

Having co-evolved with fire over eons, Western forests and many of their resident species today are considered "fire-dependent." Giant sequoias' cones can be opened by squirrels or beetles, but the rain of seeds is 10 to 100 times greater when fire is the agent. Sequoia seedlings do not do well in acidic soil, but fire will neutralize the acidity.

Take fire out of the picture and forest composition itself can change dramatically. Forests in which fire-resistant trees once held sway, outcompeting the fire-prone species, now change their makeup. Thin-barked White fir now takes over where thicker-barked Ponderosa ruled. The White fir provides a fire ladder to

bring erstwhile ground-hugging fires into the canopy; this can kill trees much more effectively than burning through bark ever could before.

So one irony is, fire suppression leads to more and worse fires.

Suppression of all fires became Forest Service policy in 1905 but really took off with the Smokey campaign in the '40s. Coinciding with this was a new push by timber companies (having liquidated much of their private-lands inventory) to extract commercial timber from federal forests, providing raw material for the

***"It has taken
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post-war housing boom.

The industry has cranked up its PR machine lately to promote its message that more logging is the best prevention for forest fire—after all you're reducing fuel, it sounds like common sense. And Big Timber insists that environmentalists have blocked the way—ideologues bent on stopping the chainsaws even if it means unleashing catastrophic fire on our ecosystems and communities.

In a recent San Francisco Chronicle op-ed headlined, "Tree hugging—a fatal embrace," *National Review* editor Rich Lowry led off, "How do you tell if someone is a true friend of the forest? He's probably the one with the chainsaw."

The notion is that, by a happy coinci-

dence, the timber industry has come along at precisely the time of Nature's greatest need and that by doing more cutting we have a win-win for logging companies and forests.

This ruse ignores the fact that timber companies take the biggest trees, which do the most to suppress fire naturally, thereby drying out the forest. The operators leave small trees and sun-baked piles of slash and debris behind.

What we should be doing instead of the conventional fire-suppression programs is: a) recognize that wildfire is a natural process, important in the evolution of forests and wildlife, 2) acknowledge that we cannot really stop wildfire, only anticipate and guide it, 3) practice a limited "let-burn" policy, as is done on many federal wilderness areas, 4) avoid building in fire zones, such as Southern California chaparral, much the way we (should) avoid building in flood plains, and 5) leave more of the big trees standing.

Thankfully, attitudes are changing. Controlled burns are now routine in Sequoia-Kings Canyon and Yosemite national parks. Burning is increasingly practiced in other agencies as well.

Since so much of what we're dealing with here concerns American culture, here is a trivia question to wrap up—Roderick Nash, UC Santa Barbara professor and author of "Wilderness and the American Mind," called it the "most important document in American cultural history on the subject of fire-management policy." What is it?

The hints are, like Smokey it is something we grew up with and loved. And it frightenend the public by overdramatizing forest fires.

The answer is in a small box on page 15.

—Paul Hughes



Bill to end timber subsidies gains momentum

After months of campaigning for a bill to eliminate commercial logging on federal public lands, Forests Forever in 2001 succeeded in persuading two members of Congress, California Reps. Zoe Lofgren (D-San Jose) and George Miller (D-Concord), to co-sponsor the legislation.

Called the National Forest Protection and Restoration Act, House Resolution (HR) 1494 would abolish subsidies that help fund timber company road building in national forests.

The savings would then be channeled into a program to restore damaged national forest lands.

Authored by Rep. Cynthia McKinney (D-GA) with lead Republican co-author Rep. Jim Leach (R-IA), the restoration act also would fund the development of alternative fibers for paper and building materials, create jobs by starting a scientifically based forest-restoration program, and replace any lost timber revenues to counties for schools and roads.

"In California most of the national forests are in the Sierra Nevada," said Paul Hughes, Forests Forever executive director. "There the economy has shifted dramatical-

ly away from extractive uses, such as logging, and toward activities such as tourism. In large part, this trend reflects a change in public attitudes in favor of forest protection."

So far 112 members of Congress have co-sponsored the legislation, thanks to the efforts of Forests Forever and other members of the National Forest Protection Alliance (NFPA). Typically about 150 congressional sponsors are needed for a bill to have a chance at passing.

"We've definitely shown we're increasing our base of support in Congress," said NFPA campaign coordinator Jake Kreilick.

Forests Forever began working on the restoration act campaign in October of 2000. By the end of 2001 the organization had collected and mailed 5381 letters to California's U.S. senators urging them to introduce a Senate companion bill.

Forests Forever phone canvassers also secured 14,673 commitments to contact the senators for the same purpose.

The group also collected and mailed 4172 letters to Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-Palo Alto) and other congressional representatives, asking them to support the restora-

tion act. The organization also received 5499 commitments to contact legislators and ask for their support.

In fall 2001 the NFPA began a major push to gain publicity for the restoration legislation, unveiling its "10 Most Endangered National Forests Report."

As the association's primary group in California, and its only group with a large grassroots organizing program, Forests Forever was tapped to play a leading role in the publicity campaign.

One of the 10 "forests" the NFPA identified as most endangered is actually a group of California forests called the Quincy Library Group forests, which includes the Plumas, Lassen and Tahoe. The other nine national forests were:

- Allegheny (Pennsylvania)
- Ouachita (Arkansas and Oklahoma)
- Black Hills (South Dakota and Wyoming)
- Tongass (Alaska)
- Umpqua (Oregon)

see "HR 1494," p. 15, col. 2

Bush administration chips away roadless rule

A Clinton administration ban on road building in 58.5 million acres of U.S. wilderness would become law under legislation recently introduced in Congress.

The bill, which essentially mirrors President Bill Clinton's ban, was introduced in June by Reps. Jay Inslee (D-Washington) and Sherwood Boehlert (R-New York).

The legislation would prohibit logging in federal roadless areas, except in rare circumstances, and would halt the creation of new leases for oil and gas drilling.

Clinton put the original "roadless rule" into effect in 2001 following three years of analysis and public outreach. The Bush Administration has not upheld the rule, however, and instead has steadily weakened protection for the roadless areas.

"The Bush Administration officials said that they were going to uphold (the roadless rule), but they haven't," said California Wilderness Coalition Communications Director Keith Hammond. "In the meantime the Forest Service is planning tons of

timber sales in roadless areas that are supposed to be protected under the rule."

The timber industry fought hard against Clinton's road ban. Just two days before it was to become law last year, a federal judge in Idaho blocked the rule from taking effect.

With the judge's injunction in place, the U.S. Forest Service in July 2001 issued interim orders exempting Alaska's Tongass National Forest and 11 other national forests from the ban.

Under the interim directive the Forest Service will review logging and road construction projects in the remaining roadless areas, leaving protection for those parcels uncertain.

In addition, the Forest Service eliminated a section of its own rules stating that



photo courtesy of the Bureau of Land Management

there must be a compelling reason for a road to be built in a wilderness area. The agency also removed a requirement that an Environmental Impact Statement be conducted before a road is built. This change allows Forest Service managers to decide whether to conduct an environmental review.

Hammond said the new Forest Service orders leave critical portions of California

see "Roadless," p. 15, col. 3

Voter initiative ends in victory for Blue oak forest

Now that 70 acres of critical Blue oak forest habitat in Novato have been saved from development, the Marin Audubon Society is close to purchasing the land to protect it as permanent open space.

Proving the effectiveness of grassroots organizing, Novato residents in May 2001 passed a referendum overturning the Novato City Council's approval of a 424-unit housing development slated for an area in northeast Novato called Bahia.

The land is believed to be the only place left in California where a Blue oak forest and a salt marsh exist as one intact ecosystem.

The referendum averted a potential disaster for the ecologically unique parcel. All of the homes in the proposed development would have been built on environmentally sensi-

tive areas, and would have destroyed roughly 3300 trees, historic baylands, and wildlife habitat for endangered species such as the California Clapper rail.

"(Bahia) has a lot of wetlands and it has over 200 acres of Blue oak woodland, which is very unusual," said the Audubon Society's Barbara Salzman. "It's a pretty special site."

The Novato City Council approved plans for the housing development in December of 2000, but the volunteer group Citizens to Save Bahia collected enough signatures from Novato residents to put a referendum against the project on the ballot.

Forests Forever's field canvass assisted with the referen-

see "Bahia," p. 10, col. 1



Bahia's Blue oaks

photo courtesy of Marin Audubon

Experts concerned disease could harm redwoods

As experts scrambled to halt a disease ravaging California's oak trees, many forest advocates felt an added sense of alarm this year over news that the epidemic also could threaten the state's redwood forests.

Sudden Oak Death was first discovered in the Marin County town of Mill Valley in 1995 and has infected tens of thousands of trees since then.

Earlier this year, Sudden Oak Death pathogens were found on redwood sprouts in Berkeley and Monterey.

Scientists are trying to determine whether the discovery means the disease could infect redwood trees, but so far they do not have an answer.

"There are too many variables really to speculate on what it could do to the (redwood) forests," said Katie Facino, public information officer for the California Oak Mortality Task Force.

Since its discovery, Sudden

Oak Death has been found in 11 other California coastal counties and in Curry County, Oregon. Fifteen species of plants and trees are known to be carriers.

In 2000, researchers determined the disease's cause to be a new species of the fungus-like *Phytophthora*, a relative of the organism that caused the Irish potato famine of the mid-1800s. The new pathogen, named *Phytophthora ramorum*, was found on rhododendrons in Germany and the Netherlands as early as 1993, though it is unclear whether the disease originated in one of those coun-

tries.

In January a Marin County arborist reported that Sudden Oak Death had killed redwood trees on the property of one of his clients. Lab tests confirmed that *Phytophthora* was present on samples from the trees, but were unable to determine whether the species of the pathogen was the one that causes the disease.

After the story broke, UC researchers reported finding the Sudden Oak Death pathogen on redwood sprouts in Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park in Monterey County and on the UC Berkeley campus. But the scientists have yet to determine

whether the organism is capable of killing redwood trees.

Facino said researchers are working to determine whether the pathogen samples found on the redwood sprouts were alive and growing at the time they were found.

It is possible the samples were only dead remnants that traveled to the sprouts from another plant, she said. If so, they would be incapable of doing harm.

It is unclear how soon the researchers will be able to say whether the disease poses a threat to redwoods. For now, the Oak Mortality Task Force is monitoring oaks across the state to determine how many trees the disease has killed and which areas are at the greatest risk of infestation.

"We're trying to get a handle on it and be proactive instead of reactive," Facino said.

— A.S.

"There are too many variables really to speculate on what it could do to the (redwood) forests."

Kathy Bailey: 'Not a headline grabber'

The former Sierra Club California forestry chair uses her recent retirement to fight a battle in her own backyard

In 1971, Kathy Bailey settled down in rural Mendocino County with one goal in mind.

"I moved to the country," she said, "to have a quiet and peaceful life."

One phone call disrupted those plans, however, and jumpstarted Bailey's long career as a volunteer environmental activist.

Bailey has most recently focused on the restoration of Jackson Demonstration State Forest in her own Mendocino County backyard. (See stories, pages 1, 12 and 13.)

But it is her work on issues such as preserving Headwaters Forest that has earned her a place as one of California's most effective forest advocates.

The call that changed everything for Bailey came in 1976 from a Sierra Club representative, who told her a timber company planned to spray Agent Orange on the hillside behind her home.

At the time, the timber industry used Agent Orange—the same chemical the U.S. military sprayed to destroy vegetation during the Vietnam War—to kill brush and hardwood in America's forests.

Bailey and her neighbors were horrified at the prospect of the area being exposed to the herbicide, which was associated with a host of health problems, from severe rashes to birth defects.

Naturally gravitating toward leadership roles, Bailey quickly found herself right in the middle of the issue. She became involved in an initiative to ban classes of dioxin-containing compounds, including Agent Orange, from Mendocino County.

The measure passed and was challenged by the timber industry, but was upheld by the California Supreme Court.

Just a few months later, however, the California state legislature passed a last-minute law that gutted pesticide regulation in California and overruled the Mendocino County initiative.

Eventually, the timber industry yielded to public pressure and stopped using Agent Orange. Ultimately, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) banned 2,4,5-T, one of the dioxins comprising the herbicide.

The EPA's prohibition of 2,4,5-T proves

that sometimes issues initially seen as being on the environmental fringe can eventually make their way into the mainstream. Sometimes, Bailey said, it just takes time.

"The most important thing to recognize is that change is sometimes happening at a pace that is very difficult to perceive," she said.

Although she is able to see progress on a long-term scale, Bailey is also keenly



Kathy Bailey

photo by Andria Strickley

aware of the urgency of protecting finite resources such as forests. And she is remarkably dedicated to her cause, said Sierra Club Executive Director Carl Pope.

It is Bailey's combination of outspokenness and diplomacy that makes her such an effective leader, Pope said.

"She's forceful, but not strident," Pope said. "She's not a headline grabber."

After her work on the Agent Orange issue, Bailey went back to "being a mom" to daughter Nora, now in college, and son Keegan, now in high school.

But the dedicated mother and former school board member, whose activism roots first formed during the civil rights movement, wasn't able to enjoy her second attempt at a quiet and peaceful life for long.

It was a moment as defining as the Sierra Club phone call that brought her

back to the frontlines of forest activism.

In the mid-1980s, Bailey and husband Eric, a Mendocino County judge, moved the family to a new home down the road. Bailey hired an electrician to do some work on the place. As it turned out, he was also an equipment operator for the Louisiana Pacific timber company.

Scanning the forest across from the property, the man told Bailey she should appreciate her view.

"He said, 'You better look at this because those trees aren't going to be there very long. I can't believe what we're doing out here in the woods, we're taking everything,'" said Bailey.

Stunned that a timber company employee was disturbed by the amount of trees being cut, Bailey decided to take another look at logging issues. She called a friend from her herbicide initiative days and was invited to a meeting at a picnic table by the side of the highway east of Fort Bragg in tiny Laytonville.

That meeting turned out to be one of many that ultimately led to the Forests Forever initiative of 1990. The initiative, which aimed to ban clear-cutting in California and provided funds for the purchase of the 3000-acre ancient Headwaters Grove, lost by a two percent margin.

The measure did have positive outcomes, though, resulting in the formation of the current Forests Forever organization and the eventual acquisition of the 10,000-acre old-growth Headwaters Preserve.

Her work on the Forests Forever campaign focused Bailey's attention on Headwaters, and she spent the next 10 years fighting to save it. She began volunteering for the Sierra Club, and ended up becoming the forest conservation chair for Sierra Club California.

Bailey finally left the Sierra Club last summer because of health reasons. The move has allowed her more time for her favorite hobbies, which include gardening and occasional "escapes" to San Francisco. It has also allowed her to focus on preserving Jackson Forest, the largest of California's state forests, located just up the

see "Bailey," p. 11, col. 1

The West on fire:

How decades of suppression have created fuel for disaster

Each summer the news is filled with stories of wildfires burning out of control in the western U.S. This year has been no exception. By July 2002, 3.3 million acres already had burned— twice the 10-year average for that time of year.

While people are justly terrified of huge blazes, many forest ecology experts say years of suppression actually have increased the frequency and severity of wildfires.

In addition, some say, attempts to “fire-proof” forests have disrupted the natural role of fire (typically caused by lightning) in maintaining forest health.

Fires are an integral part of the forest

duced a spokesman for its fire fighting policy: Smokey the Bear. In his familiar forest ranger outfit Smokey became emblazoned across the national consciousness, teaching millions of people that wildfires were something to be prevented at all costs.

But Morrison says that by suppressing fires, humans have thrown off the natural forest equilibrium that has existed for eons.

“A lot of the species have evolved for hundreds of thousands of years with fire,” he said. “By taking that out of the equation you shift the balance toward species that are less dependent on fire. Those species start to dominate the ecosystem.”

As an example, Morrison says, the

intervention.

Untouched ancient forests were able to survive fires because the older trees devel-

“A lot of the species have evolved for hundreds of thousands of years with fire. By taking that out of the equation you shift the balance toward species that are less dependant on fire.”



photo courtesy of the Bureau of Land Management

ecosystem, says Peter Morrison of the Pacific Biodiversity Institute in Washington state.

“They’re as natural a phenomenon as the snow falling in the wintertime,” he says.

As commercial logging increased across federal forests in the 1930s the U.S. Forest Service began to worry about the risk fires posed to this valuable resource. As a response the agency began a policy of suppressing all fires by 10 a.m. regardless of size or location.

In the late 1940s the Forest Service intro-

Pacific Northwest has seen a steady decline in aspen trees, which resprout from their roots and therefore tend to survive fires better than competitors such as spruce. Without fires to keep them in check, spruce and other conifers have taken over what were once aspen-dominated forests.

In addition to throwing forest ecosystems out of balance, years of fire suppression have allowed dangerous levels of fuel to build up in the nation’s forests. The result is fires that burn hotter and faster than those that took place before human

oped thick bark that could resist the flames. The shade from the canopy kept the ground moist and fires typically burned no higher than a few feet tall. However, studies show that years of logging have significantly worsened the damage caused by forest fires.

Experts say logging has increased fire risk in several ways. For one, timber companies tend to remove the largest trees, which also happen to be the most fire-resistant. Taking out the biggest trees also can increase wind speeds, affecting how fires spread. Timber harvests generally create piles of branches and other debris, adding to the fuel that already has built up on the forest floor. And without the shade provided by the larger trees, the forest floor and slash dry out more quickly, generating much more intense fires.

But Buck Latapie, fire planning and budget assistant director in the Forest Service’s Washington, D.C., office, says logging is not to blame for increased wildfire severity. He argues that harvesting some of the larger trees reduces crown closure, letting heat escape from forests when fires strike.

“It allows them to vent, allows some of the heat out of there,” Latapie says.

But according to a 1996 report by the Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project commissioned by the Congress, "Timber harvest, through its effects on forest structure, local microclimate and fuels accumulation, has increased fire severity more than any other recent human activity."

A December 2000 report by Taxpayers for Common Sense cites two recent examples of logging operations igniting fires:

- The Ryan Gulch Fire. Started by Plum Creek Timber Company logging operations on privately owned lands in western Montana, the fire spread to adjacent public lands, and eventually burned 17,118 acres. The final cost for fighting the fire was \$7.3 million.
- The Crooked fire. Burning in the Clearwater National Forest near the Idaho-Montana border, the fire began in logging slash. According to a 2000 National Interagency Fire Center report, the fire burned 4892 acres at a cost of \$5.2 million.

How Natural Fire Benefits Forests

Fires maintain the equilibrium of forests by:

- Releasing the seeds of trees, such as certain species of pine, so they can reproduce.
- Returning nutrients to the soil.
- Creating diverse habitat for fish and wildlife.
- Eliminating excess dead and diseased trees.
- Preventing dangerous fuel levels from building up.

The Taxpayers for Common Sense report concludes that Congress and the Forest Service mistakenly have focused on commercial logging as a means to deal with fire risks.

"Unfortunately, commercial logging can exacerbate the problem," the report says. "Moreover, a focus on commercial logging politicizes the problem and distracts from real solutions. As long as Congress and the Forest Service rely on this approach, the situation will continue to deteriorate."

The report says that at \$1.3 billion, fire suppression costs in 2000 were the most expensive in history. To reduce future costs, the Taxpayers organization says the Forest Service should focus on fighting fires in the "Wildland Urban Interface" (WUI), where wilderness meets populated areas.

"We'd definitely like to see the fires in the high-risk communities extinguished first," says Taxpayers for Common Sense Policy Analyst Sharon Nappier.

Nappier says Taxpayers is pressing for 75 percent of Forest Service fire suppression funds to go to fighting fires in the WUI. Fires in other areas should be left to run their natural course, the group says.

Morrison of the Pacific Biodiversity Institute says that in many cases fires can be much more deadly to fight than to let burn. He points to the example of last year's Thirtymile Fire in Washington state, which killed four young firefighters. The fire was in a remote area and was not threatening lives or property, he says.

Fighting wildfires has cost numerous fire crew members their lives over the years. In 2001, 14 firefighters died battling wildfires. Even more recently, four firefighters were killed in June of this year when an air tanker crashed near Yosemite.

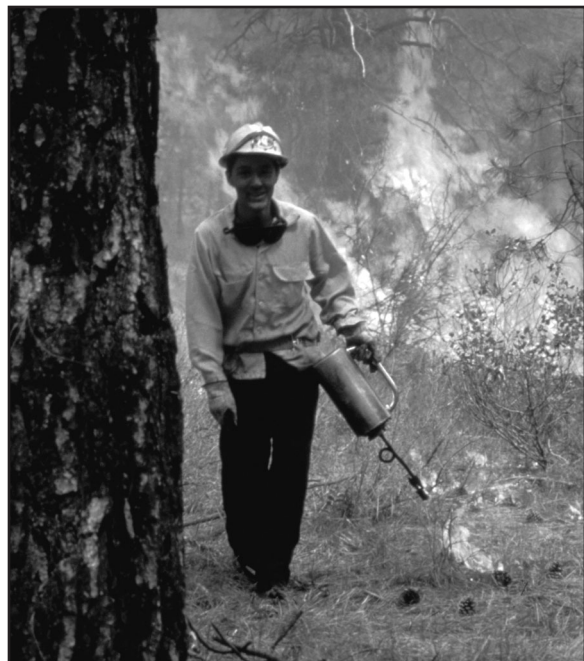
But despite the risks, Latapie of the Forest Service says, too much fuel has accumulated in many areas to simply let fires burn there.

"What we'd end up with are just devastating fires," Latapie says. "In many places, we would do irreparable damage to watersheds and critical habitat."

Latapie acknowledges the role the

Forest Service has played in creating the unnaturally large fuel load, however, and says the agency is working to change it.

Congress is helping speed that process, having given the Forest Service a 2004 deadline to rewrite fire-suppression policies for each national forest. Latapie said the Forest Service intends to use prescribed



A controlled burn

photo courtesy of Bureau of Land Management

burns to help return fuel loads to more normal levels.

Morrison of the Pacific Biodiversity Institute says prescribed burning is definitely necessary to help restore forests' natural balance. In addition, the public must become more accepting of fire as a natural occurrence instead of being swayed by overly dramatic headlines, he says.

"Words like 'destroyed' are used very frequently and it gives people the impression that fires are very bad," he says.

In reality, Morrison says, he has yet to see a fire that did not have positive effects in the end.

"Overall, if you look at it (from) a long-term view," he says, "We need more fire and not less."

—A.S.

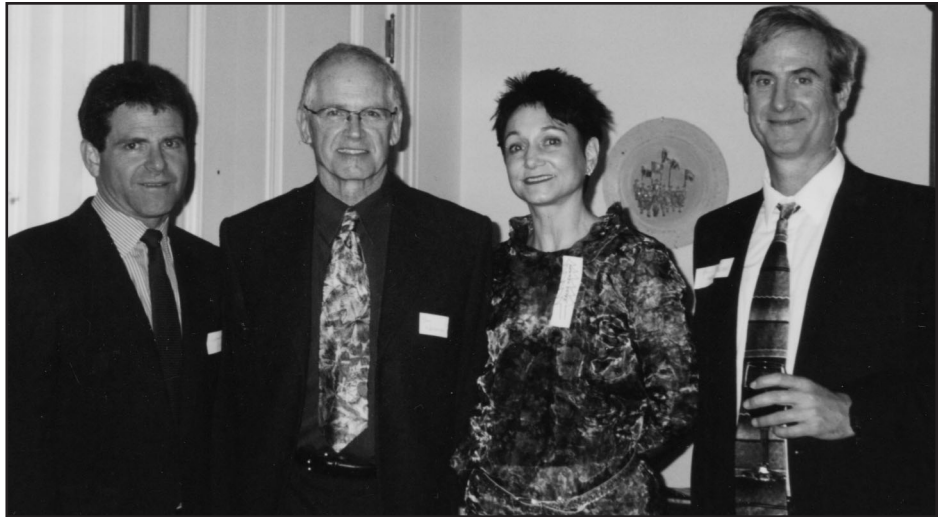
Forests Forever gala event raises over \$22,000

A gala fundraiser held in San Francisco brought in more than \$22,000 to promote Forests Forever's efforts to end clear-cutting through a statewide voter initiative.

Hosted by Forests Forever supporters Jeanne and Jim Newman in April 2001, the Pacific Heights event drew an influential group of forestry reform supporters.

The event's keynote speaker was Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D-San Francisco), who gave a rousing talk. Forests Forever Board President Mark Fletcher and Executive Director Paul Hughes also spoke.

Advisory Council member and long-time conservationist Martin Litton awed the guests with a slide show depicting the devastating effects of clear-cutting in Sequoia



From left: Joshua Robison; Jim and Jeanne Newman, event hosts; Forests Forever Executive Director Paul Hughes

FORESTS FOREVER 2001 GALA EVENT

EVENT CO-HOSTS:

Jim and Jeanne Newman

SPONSORS:

Mark A. Fletcher, Ph.D.; Walter Girdlestone; Paul Hughes; Nancy Kittle; Leonard Lehmann; James Newman; Beverly Red and Mitch Hall

Contributors:

\$5000 or more, "Wilderness":

Aleksandar Totic

\$1000 to \$2500, "Ancient Forests":

Rena G. Bransten; Martine Dreiling; Ann M. Hatch; Richard Lawler and Eliza Robertson; John Morgin; Jeanne Newman; Michael Tilson Thomas and Joshua M. Robison

\$500 to \$1000, "Clean Air & Water":

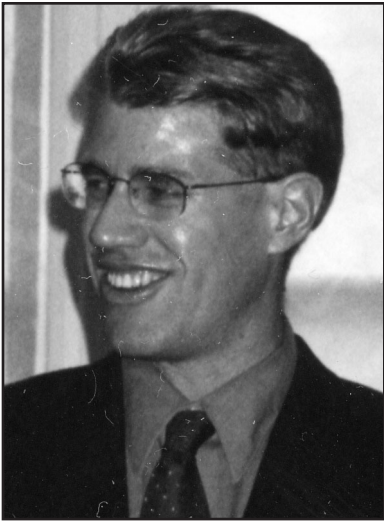
*Ian S. Forde
Robert Fragomeni
Gerald Huff
Nancy Leavens*

Up to \$500:

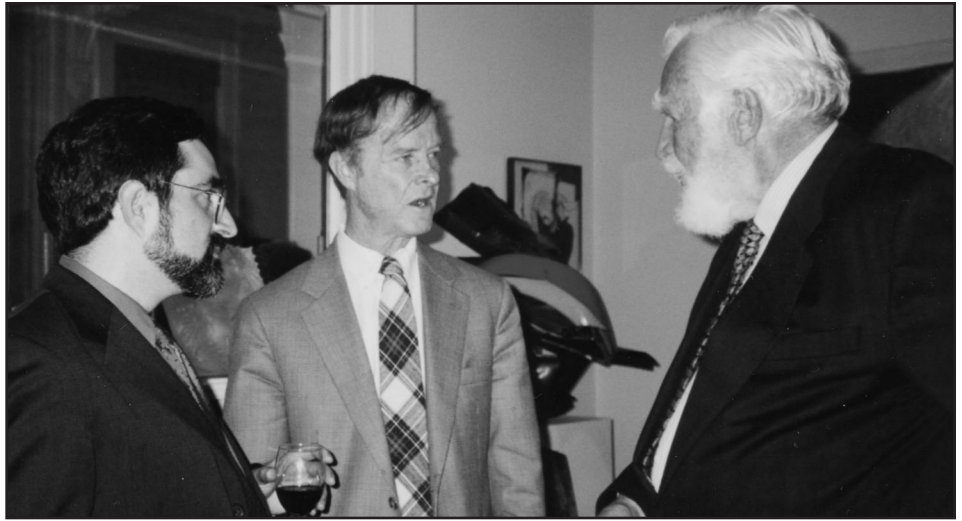
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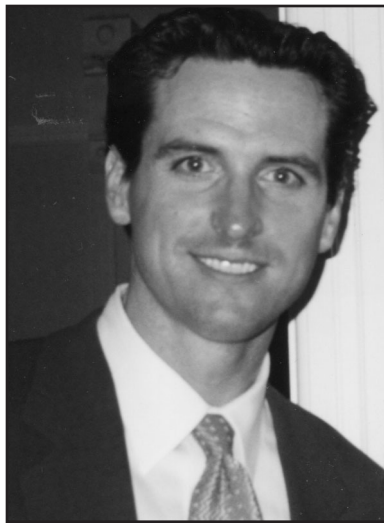
*Robert Buelteman
Pam Fishman
Supervisor Gavin Newsom and PlumpJack Café
Assembly Speaker Pro Tem Fred Keeley
Martin and Esther Litton
Assemblywoman Carole Migden
Supervisor Aaron Peskin
Gyani Riley*



Forests Forever Board President Mark Fletcher



From left: San Francisco Supervisor Aaron Peskin, Brennan Newsom, Forests Forever Advisory Council Member Martin Litton



San Francisco Supervisor Gavin Newsom

forests, including national forests, in California.

“Martin Litton’s slide show was a big eye opener for most of the people there,” said Forests Forever Board Secretary Ken Smith.

“They had no idea this was going on in a national forest. The media doesn’t cover these things.”

Smith said he was encouraged by the positive response of the people who attended, some of whom even showed interest in hosting a similar event in their own homes.

San Francisco Supervisor Gavin Newsom attended the gala and, as he did

for Forests Forever’s 1999 event, contributed wine, hors d’oeuvres and servers from his PlumpJack Café.

Classical guitarist Gyani Riley, a friend of Jeanne Newman’s, performed for the appreciative crowd.

Although it was small, the event did well financially, raising \$22,785– a significant increase from the 1999 gala. The 1999 event raised about \$13,000 with much more lead time and a consultant helping with planning.

With the money from the event, Forests Forever raised a total of \$44,210 toward the old-growth initiative in 2001.

– A.S.



Assemblywoman Carole Migden



From left: Forest Forever Board Secretary Ken Smith, Forests Forever Executive Director Paul Hughes, Forests Forever Board President Mark Fletcher, San Jose Sharks pro hockey team owner George Gund III

Forests Forever subpoenaed in Pacific Lumber lawsuit against activists

Forests Forever recently was targeted in connection with a lawsuit in which forest activists were sued for protesting logging operations on Pacific Lumber Co. (PL) land.

In April 2001 PL and several other logging-related companies (such as a log trucking operation) sued Northcoast Earth First!, Mattole Forest Defenders, and 18 persons for trespassing, erecting blockades and other protest activities on PL land in the Mattole River valley.

The suit also named "Does 1-200," allowing more defendants to be named in subsequent filings.

David Greene, executive director for Oakland's First Amendment Project, said the suit falls under the category of a "SLAPP" suit— a strategic lawsuit against public participation.

"A SLAPP suit is a lawsuit that seeks to punish somebody for exercising their First Amendment rights," Greene said. "They target people who

participate in the public process."

The protesters named in the lawsuit were trying to stop

"This lawsuit was an attempt to intimidate us and imply a threat. It won't work."

clear-cutting in the Mattole. Located in Humboldt County, the area is home to some of the last unprotected old-growth redwood forest left in California. Activists were arrested on the land as recently

as July of this year.

Forests Forever was subpoenaed in the suit in May 2001. Lawyers for the plaintiffs demanded that the organization hand over documents such as job applications and pay stubs— as well as a myriad of other detailed records— pertaining to several of the defendants.

In October 2001 Forests Forever attorney James P. Pachl wrote a response stating the organization had no records related to anyone named in the subpoena.

The response letter further stated, "Forests Forever... does not and did not recruit or train persons to attempt to halt logging operations on Pacific Lumber property in the Mattole area."

Forests Forever has received no further contact from the plaintiffs' attorneys regarding the suit since the response was written.

Forests Forever Executive Director Paul Hughes said that even though some of its current or former employees may have

participated in Mattole protests on their own time, Forests Forever itself had nothing to do with the actions.

"Forests Forever's board of directors has been clear and unequivocal that we do not endorse illegal activities or put any of our group's resources toward them," Hughes said.

"This lawsuit was an attempt to intimidate us and imply a threat. It won't work."

State legislation has been enacted to prevent lawsuits against public participation. One woman named in the PL suit— whom Greene of the First Amendment Project defended— had her case dropped based on the anti-SLAPP law.

The timber-related companies appealed the decision and the issue is now before the California Court of Appeals.

Most of the other defendants have been given the option of settling out of court because they are considered

see "SLAPP," p. 16, col. 4

"Bahia"
continued from p. 4

dum effort by collecting signatures at the doorsteps of Novato residents. Development Associate Kristin Kirk also coordinated precinct walking and tabling conducted by Marin County volunteers who collected signatures in Novato neighborhoods and at several public locations.

Kirk said the public's reaction to the referendum was mixed at first, but by the end of the campaign the majority of the people she spoke to were in favor of protecting the area.

"I felt so overjoyed the night

the referendum won," Kirk said. "It feels so great to win a victory where you are up against such odds. All the hard work and efforts really paid off."

In all, 5170 signatures were collected in 16 days from residents opposed to the development. Only 2645 were needed to place the referendum on the ballot.

Since the referendum passed, Audubon has collected more than \$7 million for the purchase of the 210-acre parcel.

The majority of the funds are from the Coastal Conservancy, which gave Audubon \$5.75 million to help acquire the land. Other contribu-

tors include the Marin County Open Space District, the Marin Community Foundation and private donors.

A purchase agreement is currently being negotiated with the owner of the Bahia property.

The exact amount needed for the purchase will not be known until the completion of an appraisal, which is currently in the works.

Audubon is pursuing several grants to help fund the purchase and is continuing to fundraise for individual contributions.

Individual donations are particularly important, Audubon members said, because \$3.75 million of the

\$5.75 million from the Coastal Conservancy must be matched by private donors. The group is confident that between the grants and private donations, enough money will be raised to complete the purchase.

For her part, Forests Forever's Kirk said she is thrilled the land will likely receive permanent protection.

"This is an oak woodland that has not been affected by the Sudden Oak Death syndrome, which has plagued so many oaks in Marin County," Kirk said. "This is just one more reason to preserve this unique ecosystem."

—A.S.

"Bailey"
continued from p. 5

highway from Bailey's home. While it has not yet received nearly the same publicity Headwaters did, the effort to end logging in Jackson has proven similarly difficult. The fact that a public entity such as the California Department of Forestry (CDF) continues to advocate outdated practices such as clear-cutting is particularly disheartening, Bailey said. "The institutional inertia at CDF has been startling, astounding actually," she said. From an environmental standpoint, ending all logging in Jackson is a reasonable goal, Bailey said. Her personal focus has been more on the preservation of the forest's oldest areas and the establishment of 500-foot no-cut zone near waterways, however. While she acknowledges

"Old-growth"
continued from p. 1

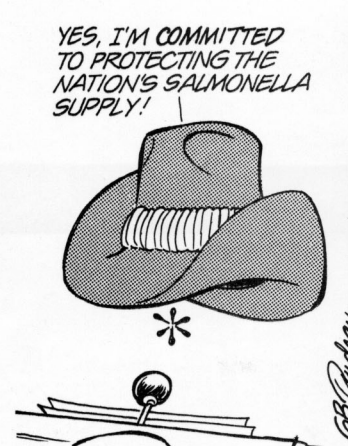
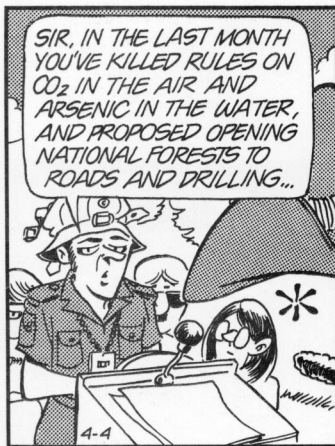
Moloney said. The fact the initiative is backed by several religious organizations shows that many people understand the more intangible values of trees, she said. "Coming from a religious perspective, people believe that there are substantive important non-economic values that these trees provide such as spirituality," Moloney said. "Some of us believe that these places are as sacred as any church one would walk in." Forests Forever board member Kent Stromsmoe, who authored a significant portion of the measure, said many endangered species depend on old-growth for survival. New trees can grow tall relatively quickly but cannot reproduce other old-growth characteristics, Stromsmoe said. As an example, Stromsmoe

standpoint. They were passed into our care from the past,"

"...these places are as sacred as any church one would walk in."

Stromsmoe said. The heritage tree act would apply to trees on non-federal forestland, since the state does not have jurisdiction over federally owned land. Stromsmoe said that the initiative's definition of forestland

not be allowed inside the buffer except on existing permanent roadways. If Sen. Perata's bill does not pass, organizers will work to place the heritage tree act on the March 2004 ballot. It will be California's first forest preservation ballot measure to be voted on since the 1990 Forests Forever initiative. Also known as Proposition 130, the Forests Forever initiative would have prohibited clear-cutting within California and authorized \$742 million in bond sales for the state to purchase virgin old-growth forests, including Headwaters Forest. The initiative failed by a slim two percent margin but helped generate publicity and organizing momentum that resulted in eventual acquisition of the 10,000-acre Headwaters Preserve.



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other environmentalists would criticize her stand as being too soft, Bailey maintains that it takes a full range of activism to make change possible. "To be effective, one has to recognize there's a lot of different ways to operate, and they all mesh together," Bailey said. "I think of it as human biodiversity in action."

- A.S.

said, the Marbled murrelet, a species of bird that nests only in old-growth, depends on the high, large-diameter branches that only very old trees can provide. Not only do old-growth trees deserve protection for their ecological benefits, Stromsmoe said, but also because they are an irreplaceable part of history. Some of California's old-growth, he noted, may have existed as long as 2700 B.C. "The initiative approaches (the trees) from a heritage

is very specific: it must be capable of growing a crop of trees to produce lumber or other forest products. In other words, the measure does not apply to trees in people's backyards, he said. The measure would include a buffer zone of 100-150 feet for heritage trees. No sites of rare, threatened or endangered plants or animals could be disturbed, threatened, or damaged within the buffer zone. Slash burning would be excluded from the zone, and heavy timber equipment would

Over the next year, CFOG will work on a campaign to teach the importance of preserving ancient trees. For Stromsmoe, the number one reason is also the simplest. "We can't get them back once they're gone."

- A.S.

"Jackson"
continued from p. 1

logging represents a breakthrough in efforts to return Jackson to old-growth-like conditions, the future of the forest remains uncertain. The new management plan calls for logging mature second-growth redwoods, which are critical to the forest's ecological integrity and to the long-term survival of its wildlife.

The draft EIR released in May supports the proposed logging, saying it will have no significant adverse environmental impacts.

But Bill Heil of the Campaign to Restore Jackson State Redwood Forest said the logging will exacerbate damage already caused by decades of

harvesting. While the California Department of Forestry (CDF) claims the plan will help demonstrate ecologically sound forest management, the document actually advocates outdated practices, Heil said. As an example, he pointed to the fact that 30 percent of the plan's proposed harvest would be clear-cut.

"Any progressive management (theory) says there's no reason to clear-cut," he said.

Chris Rowney, CDF demonstration state forest program manager, said there is no basis to criticism that the plan is ecologically unsound.

"There's got to be a little

more substantiation to that kind of claim. Obviously we think it is (sound)," Rowney said.

Asked for specifics on how the new plan helps protect the

environment, Rowney refused to answer.

"That is an analysis that is incorporated into the EIR," he

see "Jackson," p. 13, col. 1



map courtesy of the Campaign to Restore Jackson State Redwood Forest

Jackson Campaign: Little group makes huge headway

Although it only formed two years ago, the Campaign to Restore Jackson State Redwood Forest has already altered the destiny of the 50,000-acre forest.

Started by a group of Mendocino County residents intent on stopping large-scale commercial logging in the forest, the Jackson Campaign has grown to 2000 members. Although it is still relatively small—with only one paid staff member—the group has put a temporary halt to timber harvests in Jackson.

In September 2001 the Jackson Campaign partnered with Forests Forever, combining efforts to stop large-scale logging in Jackson and return the forest to conditions approximating old-growth.

Vince Taylor, the Jackson Campaign's executive director, said he was motivated to stop commercial logging in Jackson after witnessing the forest being eaten away, chunk by chunk, by large harvests.

Taylor, whose background includes a Bachelor's degree in physics from CalTech and a Ph.D. in economics from MIT, moved to Mendocino County in 1989. Jackson Forest is literally in his backyard—his property runs right to its edge—and he is passionate about protecting it as both an ecological and recre-

ational resource.

"My role is to raise people's consciousness around this," he said.

And that's exactly what he and the

implored the agency to halt commercial logging.

The Campaign's biggest victory came in May 2001 when the Mendocino County Superior Court stopped all logging in Jackson as a result of a lawsuit the group filed.

The suit asserted that CDF was logging illegally under an outdated management plan. The state forestry board's policy states that state forest management plans must be updated every 10 years. At the time, the Jackson plan's latest revision was from 1983.

The court ordered CDF to create a new management plan and commission an accompanying Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Drafts of both documents now have been completed and are awaiting review by the forestry board.

Taylor is convinced that the will of California residents is to end massive logging in Jackson. Because the forest is publicly owned, Taylor said, halting Jackson timber harvests is much more achievable

than if the land were private.

"Justice is on our side," he said, "and it's doable."

—A.S.



Vince Taylor

photo by Andria Strickley

Jackson Campaign have done. From a small office in Fort Bragg the group has created a website and newsletter, published ads and articles in local papers and moved hundreds of people to write letters to the California Department of Forestry (CDF)

"Jackson"
continued from p. 12

said.

According to the EIR, measures such as leaving some older portions of the forest intact and following strict guidelines for road building will help mitigate the plan's environmental impacts to "less than significant" levels.

But landscape ecologist James Strittholt said the plan does not leave nearly enough of the forest intact to preserve its ecosystem. Strittholt, director of the Conservation Biology Institute in Corvallis, Ore., completed an assessment of the plan for the Jackson Campaign.

"From the outset, I feel the management agency (CDF), is trying to do and promise too much. The goals are too diverse and expansive to be sustainable, or even attainable," Strittholt said in his report.

Strittholt said the proposed logging is a threat to endangered species that depend on mature forest conditions for survival.

"The draft management plan includes late seral (mature) forest enhancements, but not over an area necessary to contribute to the long-term survival of these species," he

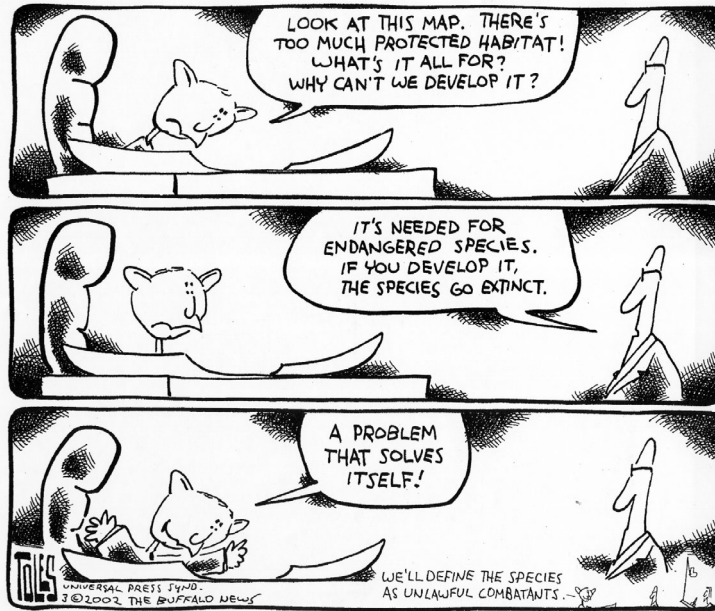
said.

Posing yet a further threat to Jackson, the panel responsible for approving the management plan, the state Board of Forestry, is the very agency that tried to help CDF avoid having to write the new plan in the first place.

CDF and the Board of Forestry, asserting that CDF needed a current management plan in order to log.

The most recent plan at the time was prepared in 1983, and was badly out of date, the group argued.

The Mendocino Superior



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The legal battle over the forest began in June of 2000 when the Jackson Campaign sued

Court agreed and in May 2001 issued a Preliminary Injunction against further logging.

After the court issued the injunction, CDF and the Board of Forestry attempted to hastily revise the board's policy, removing the requirement that forest operations be conducted under a "current management plan."

The Jackson Campaign's lawyer argued the move was illegal because it did not follow the mandate of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Faced with further legal action, CDF and the board agreed in August 2001 to halt logging in exchange for the Campaign's promise not to sue the board over the policy change.

A settlement reached March 20 finalized both the August 2001 agreement and the requirement that CDF complete an updated management plan.

Although CDF did complete the new plan, Heil said the agency took none of the concerns about logging into consideration.

"The new management plan is just like the old management plan," he said.

The agency is determined to continue logging Jackson, Heil

see "Jackson," p. 16, col. 1

State fund gives public money for private gain

Each year, the approximately \$15 million in logging revenue from Jackson State Forest goes into a fund called the Forest Resources Improvement Fund (FRIF).

At least some of FRIF is used to repair damage caused by logging on private land—essentially giving subsidies to private landowners.

Vince Taylor, executive director of the Campaign to Restore Jackson State Redwood Forest said revenues from a state-owned forest should not be used to subsidize the private timber industry.

"We're trying to solve

forestry problems by degrading the publicly owned forests," he said.

About 80 percent of the FRIF budget comes from logging Jackson, said demonstration state forest program manager Chris Rowney. One FRIF program—the California Forest Improvement Program—gives grants directly to private timberland owners to help them repair watershed damage from logging.

Taylor said that instead of using Jackson profits to finance such programs, the state should pay for FRIF through either the General Fund or a timber tax.

Rowney said it was not a California Department of Forestry (CDF) decision to use Jackson timber revenues to fund FRIF.

Instead the state legislature opted to use the logging revenues when it first established the fund, he said.

At the moment, the FRIF budget for the 2002-2003 fiscal year is uncertain, as the Jackson Campaign's lawsuit has temporarily halted logging in the forest. (See related stories, pages 1 and 12.) As a result, Rowney said, the subsidies to private landowners essentially have been eliminated for the

time being, and all other programs have seen significant cutbacks.

To fund the remainder of the programs, Rowney said, CDF will have to borrow from the General Fund.

And as far as Taylor is concerned, that is a far better place from which to draw FRIF funding than by degrading one of the state's most ecologically critical forests.

—A.S.

Loose Leaf Briefs

Earth First! activists awarded \$4.4 million

OAKLAND—In a surprising defeat for the FBI and Oakland police department, a federal jury in June awarded \$4.4 million in damages to Earth First! activists Judi Bari and Darryl Cherney, concluding that law enforcement officials framed the pair for the bombing of their own car.

The jury found six federal agents and police officers guilty of violating Bari and Cherney's rights to free speech and protection from unlawful searches.

Bari, who died of breast cancer in 1997, and Cherney sued a year after Bari's station wagon was bombed in Oakland in 1990. Their suit alleged false arrest, illegal search, slanderous statements and conspiracy. The pair contended that officials ignored evidence clearing them and lied to make their case.

The Bari-Cherney case is one of the few civil cases against the FBI to be brought to trial. The government had fought for 11 years to keep the case from being tried.

Boxer bill would protect 2.5 million acres

SAN FRANCISCO—U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA) in May introduced a bill that would designate 2.5 million acres of California public lands and 400 miles of the state's rivers as wild, helping ensure their protection from the effects of California's booming population.

Dubbed the "California Wild Heritage Wilderness Act of 2002," the bill would incorporate 73 public land parcels into the National Wilderness Preservation System and add 22 river sections to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

The Wilderness Act represents a key milestone in the campaign to permanently protect California's dwindling wild legacy. Wilderness designation would save the public lands from logging, development, road building and mining, and would prohibit motorized vehicles from entering the areas.

The bill would safeguard rivers from any new dams or water diversions and would preserve the particular features that led to their designation. A river designated because of its fisheries, for example, would be protected from logging to maintain its spawning areas.

Coalition seeks national parks funding

WASHINGTON, D.C.—A new coalition has formed to help fund America's national parks, which are facing pressures from increased visitation, overdevelopment, motorized vehicle use, and air and water pollution.

Called Americans for National Parks, the coalition is working to encourage the Congress and the Bush administration to address the full needs of the National Park System. Forests Forever is an active member of the group.

The campaign is focused on a set of interim 18-month goals, the first of which is to build public demand for park protection through media relations, advertising, and grassroots education.

The Park Service's annual operations budget falls at least \$600 million, or 32 percent, short of what is needed. As a result, plant and wildlife species are disappearing.

To join Americans for National Parks at no cost, or for more information, contact Bodhi Garrett, local campaign coordinator, at (510) 839-9922 ext. 24 or at bgarrett@npca.org and be sure to visit www.americansfornationalparks.org.

U.N. report paints bleak picture

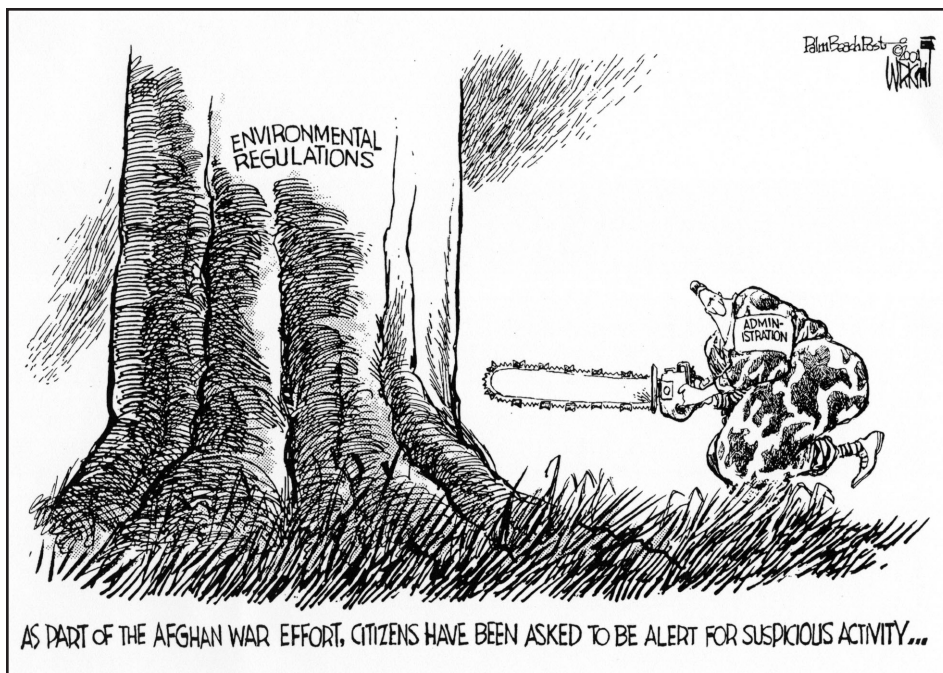
LONDON—In 30 years the Earth could become a wasteland of urban slums, lose almost a quarter of its mammal species and see millions of people die from thirst and water-borne diseases, according to a United Nations report released in May.

The report looks at a variety of scenarios in predicting what could happen in the next 30 years.

Under the most optimistic scenario, there would be continued development but more compact cities and better planning, maintaining the stress on water supplies at a steady level and stabilizing pressure on land and animals by 2032.

Under the bleakest scenario, one with uncontrolled growth, 55 percent of the global population will face moderate to severe water shortages and more than 11,000 plant and animal species will be dead or dying. Most coastal regions will be clogged with pollution.

Despite all the bad news, the report did say that water and air quality has improved in the U.S. and Europe over the past 30 years.



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The Watershed

A publication of Forests Forever, Inc.
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*"Restore,
Reinhabit,
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"HR 1494"
continued from p. 3

- Clearwater (Idaho)
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The "10 Most Endangered" push was to kick off with a press conference in Washington, D.C., featuring forestry activist Julia Butterfly Hill and members of Congress. The timing of the kickoff proved unfortunate, however, as the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks jolted the world just hours before the event was scheduled to begin.

Regional press events and other events centered on each of the 10 identified forests had been planned for the weeks following the Sept. 11 kickoff.

Forests Forever was slated to publicize the "10 Most Endangered" campaign in the Bay Area. Organization members had planned vigorously toward a local press conference and rally focusing on the Quincy forests, set for Sept. 27 in San Francisco.

The regional events were cancelled after the attacks, however, and the bill was put on the backburner altogether.

Now that the shock waves from Sept. 11 have subsided, NFPA is refocusing on the restoration act. The Sierra Club and other NFPA members are urging forest supporters to write their congressional representatives to ask them to co-sponsor the legislation.

Meantime, Forests Forever has opted to focus its efforts on a more local campaign—restoration of Jackson State Forest. (See articles pages 1, 12 and 13.)

Said Hughes: "The road will be a long one to passage of this strong bill (HR 1494). We'll continue to push for it in the coming years."

—A.S.

"Roadless"
continued from p. 3

wilderness vulnerable to logging and oil drilling, including Tahoe National Forest's Duncan Canyon.

A section of Los Padres National Forest slated for the roadless law has been targeted for new oil and gas leases, Hammond said. A California condor chick, the first born in the wild since 1986, recently hatched in the untrammelled area.

Hammond said wilderness proponents have focused on banning roads because of the wide range of environmental destruction they cause, from erosion to the introduction of invasive species.

"Roads are the main cause of habitat loss and degradation for wildlife," Hammond said. "They carve up habitat into smaller chunks, which eliminates wide-ranging species like bears."

So far, more than 170 congressional representatives have signed on to the roadless measure. But the legislation likely faces an uphill battle in the Republican-controlled House of Representatives.

The Wilderness Coalition hopes the initial strong show of support for the roadless ban—including the nearly 1.7 million favorable comments sent to legislators—will be enough to sway the undecided representatives. Otherwise, Hammond said, wilderness areas undoubtedly will continue to degrade.

"Where roads go," he said, "development follows."

—A.S.

Answer from page 2 column:
the movie "Bambi"

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Action Rolodex

JACKSON FOREST

Write to your state assemblymember and senator, urging him or her to support legislation— or, better still, introduce legislation— to change the mission of Jackson Forest from logging to restoration. Jackson can and should be used to “demonstrate” and refine the best methods for bringing back ancient-forest characteristics to the cutover ecosystem.

Your assemblymember or senator
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249

Or look up your state legislators at www.leginfo.ca.gov.

“SLAPP”
continued from p. 10

“judgment proof”— meaning what little property they have is exempt from collection under state law.

Those defendants can have their charges dropped in exchange for agreeing to stay off PL land and completing several hours of community service.

It remains unclear when the Mattole suit will go to court. Meantime Greene and the First Amendment Project will continue to work to ensure that activists such as those in the Mattole Valley have the right to speak out.

“We want to encourage people to be involved in the political process,” Greene said.

—A.S.

“Jackson”
continued from p. 13

said, and the reason for it is clear: money.

State timber revenues provide more than \$15 million annually for CDF programs, including ones that help restore damage caused by logging. Called the Forest Resources Improvement Fund (FRIF), roughly 80 percent of its money comes from logging Jackson. (See related story page 13.)

Much of that money subsidizes private landowners, and Heil and the Jackson Campaign want the FRIF funds to come instead from either the state general fund or from a tax on timber harvests.

To justify continued timber harvesting in Jackson, CDF stands by a 1940s mandate that established that the forest be used in part for logging. The Jackson Campaign and Forests Forever believe the law is out of

date, and are urging lawmakers to rewrite the forest’s purpose.

The public comment period for the draft EIR closed July 19. Concerns raised by citizens and public agencies and CDF’s responses to those issues must be incorporated into the final document. The Board of Forestry then will decide whether to approve the EIR and the management plan.

Whatever the outcome, Heil said that without the legis-

lature shifting Jackson’s purpose the forest undoubtedly will continue to be logged.

“We need to do something really serious about changing the mandate,” he said.

—A.S.

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